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Winning at spinning

The 151st Kinmount Fair was held over the long weekend, with visitors of all ages having getting in on the fun. For more photos, see inside this issue of the *Minden Times*. /TIM YANO special to the *Times*

Misinformation leads to confusion in AH

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A fog of misinformation has clouded a proposed policy for licences of occupation for Algonquin Highlands properties on the dry side of a shoreline road.

Mayor Liz Danielsen and concerned shoreline property owners agreed during a council meeting Aug. 17 that the confusion about the issue in the community needs to be addressed before further steps can be taken.

Council agreed to give property owners time to investigate the policy. The policy as it was currently proposed was rescinded and the process paused until October.

Danielsen said the proposal to issue licences of occupation for developments on municipally-owned shore road allowances across the road from shoreline property has been battled about for a decade.

“Given the challenges associated with the policy, it has been placed on the backburner several times,” she said.

The idea for such a policy does not include all shoreline properties. But, she said, a lot of misinformation has been circulating throughout the community about the issue.

The primary intent in creating the policy is to level the playing field between waterfront properties immediately adjacent to the shoreline and those that are across the road but still considered to be waterfront, Danielsen said.

Both are zoned shoreline residential, but the tax assessment is less for properties across the road from the shoreline.

“Those properties immediately adjacent to the shoreline pay higher taxes as well as substantial fees to purchase their shoreline and

for permits to build structures on that same shoreline,” she said.

Property owners across the road from the shoreline have for many years built structures without permits. And that’s not fair for the owners immediately adjacent to the water.

Danielsen said it’s her understanding that Haliburton County’s other three municipalities have something in place comparable to proposed licence of occupation policy.

“The fees established are set on a cost recovery basis and not, as some have suggested, as a money-grab for the township,” she said.

North Shore Road residents James Cooper and Logan Percy, along with a contingent of other property owners who would be affected by the proposed licence of occupation policy, descended on town hall Aug. 17.

Cooper said it’s important that the misinformation be addressed.

“There’s a number of questions that have come out, and it’s adding to confusion out there that we need to address,” he said.

Property owners are angry, frustrated, and confused, he said, and added that many residents have been blindsided about the proposed policy and bylaw.

“There’s so many questions about this,” Cooper said. “We’re feeling confused and it’s hit us so quickly.”

Indeed, Percy forwarded a list of more than 40 questions to council that deal with a number of issues from insurance liability, waivers, taxation, legal fees, leases, and permits.

Cooper asked that the township answer those questions for the edification of property owners before a policy or bylaw is adopted.

“Would you go into a legally binding con-

see **PROPERTY** page 2



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Star light, star bright

Photographer Cody Evans captured the northern lights above Halls Lake on Sept. 2. /CODY EVANS special to the *Times*

Property owners shouldn't cover liability: resident

from page 1

tract where you're asked for significant fees without having all your questions answered?" Cooper said.

Danielsen said many of the people who have been commenting on social media about the issue were aware of the proposed bylaw.

He said the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation lists his land as a waterfront dwelling with indirect lake access. But the municipality says his property is shoreline residential.

“I paid a hefty premium for the implied waterfront rights that have been there since the first settlers arrived at Maple Lake,” Percy said. “I don’t think anyone’s interrupted it since then until now.

“My tax bill is much higher than it would be without being legally defined as a shoreline residence with lake access.”

Percy said he spent a small fortune to upgrade the dock that came with the property he'd bought about five years ago. He's slowly replaced sections of his 120-foot long dock to ensure safety and access.

He inquired with the township four years ago about a possible lease option for the shoreline. He said he had some other questions about waterfront structures and liability issues.

"I was told that no leases or major repairs were going to be allowed until the shoreline bylaw was passed," he said.

Percy said he first got word of the proposed policy a few weeks ago. So he sought more information about the policy. Details emerged after internet research and conversations with neighbours and town staff.

“They all told me things I wanted to hear,” he said. “It did help me feel better, but this policy does not feel right at all.”

Percy suggested council defer adopting the licence of occupation policy until property owners can learn the details and ask any pertinent questions about it.

“Please pause this bylaw, give us some time, and show us that you represent us, the voters,” he said.

If liability is the driving concern behind the policy, Percy said the property owners shouldn't have to pick up the entire tab. Shoreline liability should be the same as any other municipal asset.

“Can I stop paying taxes that fund roads and bridges that I never use?” he said.

Danielsen said council is trying to do the right thing by the licence of occupation policy. But, she said, the questions brought forward by property owners are indeed valid.

"It is a really unfortunate situation that insurance companies are driving the decisions that we make in a huge way," she said. "Liability has just become an astronomical problem for all municipalities.

"It's like common sense has flown out the window but we must deal with the insurance companies and make our decisions based on what they're prepared to cover and what they're not prepared to cover."

Deputy Mayor Jennifer Dailloux asked Danielsen if it would be possible to consider pausing the policy process when the bylaw is discussed later in the council meeting.

Sean O'Callaghan, the township's planner, said the licence of occupation policy does not apply to all docks within Algonquin Highlands. Rather, the policy will apply only to private structures that are occupying a township road allowance or shore road allowance where there is a township-maintained road between a private property and the water.

“Not a county road, a provincial highway, or a private road,” O’Callaghan said.

The policy is hoped to help those property owners to best utilize the waterfront and improve existing or build new infrastructure on that township land.

“Currently, we cannot issue building permits for such structures,” O’Callaghan said.

The stipulation of \$5-million liability insurance is the industry standard for such situations.

The \$500 annual fee goes to the reasonable expectation that the beneficiaries of the policy cover the majority of the costs to administer the policy.

“It will only benefit the individual property owners applying for the licence,” he said.

Danielsen said the liability demand should be dropped from \$5-million to \$2-million at the start. And, she suggested, perhaps the licence's annual renewal isn't necessary. Asking \$500 every year is a bit much, she said.

"I see the need for a trial period or a review period," she said. "If we are satisfied that we can enter into an agreement with the party who wishes to ... build structures, we should be able to enter into an agreement that's a little bit longer than a year."

Regarding the question of whether a lease would be more appropriate than a licence, O'Callaghan said a lease can be sub-leased to another party whereas a licence cannot. Under the Planning Act, a lease can't exceed 21 years but a licence can be extended indefinitely.

Council waives landfill fees for couple

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

As two Minden Hills residents can attest, it isn't always the case that good intentions never win.

At least, not after a follow-up letter to township council to sway them away from penalizing a selfless act. Council agreed Aug. 31 to waive the costs for Rick Thurston and Wendy Coulson to dispose of a cast-off dock at a municipal landfill.

Thurston and Coulson took it upon themselves to remove a wayward dock from the middle of Horseshoe Lake earlier this summer. Fun weekends at the lake have been ruined for boaters who collide with such heavy and often difficult to spot flotsam.

Old docks floating freely, whether cut adrift or having come unmoored, are an increasing problem on many Haliburton County lakes and waterways. Even Mayor Bob Carter said it's a growing issue at the lake on which he lives.

Thurston and Coulson used various avenues in the lake community to ask that the original owner take responsibility. They were unsuccessful.

They were going to tear the bit of errant dock apart to bring it to the Scotchline landfill but were wary of it costing them hundreds of dollars. So Thurston and Coulson asked township council in July to forgive them the landfill dumping fees for the dock they removed.

While some on council and staff thought waiving the dumping fee would be a good idea, other councillors was fearful it would set a precedent for future claims.

In the end, council refused to forgive the disposal costs.

And that left Thurston and Coulson with "disbelief and disappointment," they wrote in a follow-up letter to council for its Aug. 31 meeting.

"Had we been the original owner of this dock, you would have never heard from us," the couple wrote. "In 2017, when we installed a new dock, we dismantled an old one and hauled it away and disposed of it all at our cost.

"Your decision has made us question what we would do if this happens again as there were no viable solutions put for-

ward in your discussions."

Councillor Ivan Ingram said at the August meeting that he has some concerns about hoisting a bill on the couple who were only trying to do the right thing.

People who participate in the Adopt a Road program and collect trash from the sides of the road are not given a bill for payment for disposing that garbage, Ingram said.

"This isn't a personal dock of theirs," he said. "This is someone else's property that's been let go. I think we should let them dump it at the dump, no charge."

Further, Ingram said, council should allow landfill staff the authority to decide such a claim's legitimacy and whether or not to waive tipping or disposal fees in such circumstances.

Carter, who attended the meeting remotely for health reasons, said he agreed with Ingram. The wayward dock was a hazard that they helped clean up and, as such, they shouldn't be charged at the landfill.

"These people did all of us a favour by doing what they did," he said.



Zucchini queenies

Abigail, left, 4, and Evangeline Ingram, 6, took first place in the Junior Division of the Kinmount Fair for the categories heaviest zucchini and longest zucchini. The girls, who live in Lochlin, grew the zucchinis with their dad over the summer months and spent many days watering and caring for their vegetable garden. The longest zucchini measured a whopping 28 inches. They are pictured here with the prize winning zucchinis at the fair on Friday, Sept. 1. / Photot submitted

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VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipality Act. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

September 14 – Regular Council Meeting
September 28- Regular Council Meeting .

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or a live-stream link available on the Township CivicWeb Portal at mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx or by using the direct link provided in the notice. Meeting agendas are not displayed during the meeting; please download by visiting our CivicWeb Portal at mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx. Please note the live stream file/video will be available to the public for the duration of one week after the Council Meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENT MESSAGE

Thursday Sept. 28, 2023, is Ontario's first Test Your Smoke Alarm Day!

Last year, there were 133 fire fatalities in the province – the most in 20 years.

To help keep residents safe, the Township of Minden Hills Fire Dept. has partnered with Ontario's Office of the Fire Marshal's Saved by the Beep program.

As part of the program, Minden Hills residents are encouraged to learn more about smoke alarms fire safety, and home fire escape planning, which can save the lives of you and your loved ones.

Having properly working smoke alarms in your home is the law. Avoid fines by testing your smoke alarms and replacing batteries regularly.



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CULTURAL CENTRE EVENTS

The Agnes Jamieson Gallery will be closed Sep 5-6 as we install our next exhibit. Shifting Lens, a group exhibit featuring 15 artists from the Eastern Hub of the Ontario Society of Artists, will be on display September 7 – November 25, 2023, in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery. The opening reception takes place on Saturday, September 9 from 1-3 pm. All are welcome. Admission is by donation. The Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm. Admission is by donation. For more information, please call 705-286-3763 or email culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca

The Minden Hills Museum & Heritage Village and Nature's Place is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm until Saturday, October 7. This week features hands-on activities taking place every day from 3-4 pm including mini scarecrows, rock painting and ice-cream making. The Heritage Village is also open for self-guided tours. Admission is by donation. For more information, please call 705-286-3763 or email culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

- Fall Drop-in Programs start September 5, 2023, at the arena.
- Registered Programs registration September 11 at 9:00am in person at arena or online <https://townshipofmindenhills.perfectmind.com/> registered programs start September 24, 2023.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently seeking energetic and highly motivated individuals for a variety of positions within the municipality. Please visit our website at www.mindenhills.ca/careers/ for a complete list of available positions and how to apply.

Kinmount Lions President JC Lagrange and Dr. Elena Mihi present Darlene Mann with the Citizen of the Year award at the Kinmount Fair. Mann is the organizer and facilitator of the Kinmount Artisan Market. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff



Alan Howard was presented as the second Citizen of the Year on Sept. 1 at the Kinmount Fair, for all his work towards physician recruitment for the community.

Kinmount Citizens of the Year announced at fair

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

The Kinmount Fair means many things; candy apples, games, vendors, rides. But one of the most anticipated events each year is the announcement of Kinmount’s Citizen of the Year, presented by the Kinmount Lions Club.

“There was not a Citizen of the Year announced last year,” said Lions Club president JC Lagrange, referencing the uncertainty of the past years in light of the pandemic, “so we decided that this year, there should be two citizens recognized this year.”

The Citizen of the Year is a recognition of volunteer individuals who inspire others, and make the community a brighter place. “If there is a theme for the two winners this year, it would be adversity and tenacity,” said Lagrange.

The presentation was made on Sept. 1 at the Kinmount Fairgrounds, to kick off the 151st Kinmount Fair. Lagrange shared with the audience that the past few years have been trying for everyone. “We’ve all been perpetually worried,” he said.

This is why the celebration for Citizen of the Year was a sought after feel-good moment after the years of darkness.

Leading into the first award, Lagrange referenced Kinmount as an artistic community, filled with all types of artists from around the community. “But there’s one place they all meet,” said Lagrange, at which point, the audience members had an inkling about who the recipient was.

Lagrange went on to celebrate Darlene Mann, who he referred to as a “community minded artist.” After moving to Kinmount in 2004, Mann became heavily involved in the artistic community, helping former Artist Market manager Patti Fleury with coordination of the weekly vendors.

Mann was acknowledged for her irrevocable hard work when it came to market scheduling, decorating, bookkeeping, marketing, advertising, “and always being on-call” chuckled Lagrange.

It was noted that Mann was the reason that the Artisan Market stayed afloat during the COVID years, and while it is still gradually rebuilding, it is her determined leadership that brings hope for success in the future.

The second recipient of Citizen of the Year was based on a focus for physician recruitment in the community of Kinmount. “Doctors are the key to the health of our communi-

ty,” said Lagrange, while the room buzzed with anticipation.

Alan Howard was celebrated as the second Citizen of the Year, as an instrumental figure in the recruitment of physicians.

Howard grew up in India and England, where he was involved in youth programs and camps. After moving to Kinmount in the 1990s, he jumped in with two feet when it came to honouring the community. He played a major part in the restoration of the sawmill in the heart of Kinmount, before returning to India to teach at a boarding school.

After returning to Kinmount, Howard joined the Kinmount District Health Services (KDHS) foundation, where he took the lead on physician recruitment. “He worked tirelessly, hours and days of the week, providing major updates to the website, communications, and marketing,” said Lagrange, sharing that if there were any leads on physicians, Howard would drive to the airport at any time to pick them up.

His efforts were met with success when Dr. Lesslie Ponraja joined the team in March of this year, providing primary physician care for the community.

Both recipients were provided with a plaque, and were celebrated over the duration of the Long Weekend in Kinmount.



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Stanhope Fire Station celebrates 50 Years

by **CHRISTINE CARR**
Times Staff

Kids of all ages gathered in Stanhope on Saturday, Sept. 2 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the 50th anniversary of the Stanhope Fire Station. With everything from fire trucks, clothing and equipment, a barbecue, and lots of firefighters to answer questions, the open house had something for everyone.

The open house provided an opportunity for kids and adults to peek behind the curtain of firefighting and to help the station raise money through the barbecue and goods offered. District Chief for the Station Robert Sargent described what it was people enjoyed so much about the day.

"The reason we are doing this today is this year marks 50 years of a fire hall in Stanhope ... [everyone is] having fun, looking at a lot of nice, shiny equipment. We are proud of what we've got. It has changed a lot over the years," said Sargent.

The money raised from the barbecue helps support the fire station, allowing the money to go towards training and the community. Sargent described how one of the biggest changes over the last few years is in regards to the training of new firefighters. Instead of learning on the job, as he did, all firefighters now need to be fully certified before they can begin, which can cost up to \$20 000 and take six months. However, this change has allowed the county departments to become closer, as they created programs to work together to ensure everyone has the proper certification.

"The whole county got together because



Firefighter Tiffany English helps out a young visitor with their fire gear during the Stanhope Fire Department's 50th anniversary on Sept. 2.



The Stanhope Fire Department celebrated 50 years by opening their doors to the public and welcoming new faces to explore all the station has to offer.

we have a good pool of instructors. All of the new recruits go through a six month program where there is a lot of training in their own halls ... the whole county has gotten closer because of it. Now the training gets split up into different halls. Everyone gets to see the different equipment, meet the different people, and everyone gets closer because of it," said Sargent.

Looking to the future, Sargent is excited

for what is to come. One growing area in firefighting is that of mental health, as stations have a greater understanding of the impact mental health has on fire fighters. Algonquin Highlands has been commended in the past for their actions towards protecting firefighters' mental health.

"Mental health has become a really big thing. The whole mental health aspect has opened up and become more forefront ... you

are allowed to talk about it now," Sargent said.

Like he did as a kid watering the gardens with his tonka metal fire truck, kids in Stanhope had a great afternoon dressing up as firefighters and playing in and around the trucks and equipment. In opening the fire hall, Sargent potentially created new firefighters who will benefit from today's open house in the future.



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Glimmers

TO BE a human.
What a weird and
wonderful thing.

We see so much of the news.
Of the highlight reels. Of the AI
generated photos. We spend time
talking to robots about our banking
on the phone, or avoiding eye
contact at the self-checkout.

But to be a human. What a weird
and wonderful thing.

I was invited to a tour of the
Kinmount District Health Centre
this week; a bright and cheery
building, with plants in the offices
and pictures of weathered faces
on the wall. The staff room had
streamers wrapped around the
chairs; a whisper of a birthday that
was celebrated the day
before.

All through the
building, there are signs
of humans. Signs of
love, care, tenderness, or
hurt. It's a space where
people come when they
are at their lowest, or
perhaps a place where
people have the best day
they've lived so far.

And through the halls of the
building, you can feel the energy
that is put into it. A foundation of
people who live and breathe for the
goodness of their community, and
physicians who care so deeply about
helping other people, that they've
crossed oceans to be here.

There is a vulnerability to being
a human. And as I wandered from
the health centre towards the
fairgrounds, I could see all forms of
that experience. A child who was
frightened by the haunted house at
the fair. A couple sharing cotton
candy as it stuck between their
fingers. A young woman nervously
running her fingers through her hair
before she had to publicly speak.
And so often, we get caught up

in that vulnerability. We try to fill
whatever voids are carved out by
social channels and mainstream
media with retail therapy or
thoughts of insecurity.

But I think there is so much
beauty in that vulnerability.

What a weird and wonderful thing.

I recently read about something
called "glimmers".

While many have likely heard
of "triggers"; the concept of a cue
that activates feelings of unease,
discomfort, sadness, or angst,
glimmers are just the opposite.

They are simple
acknowledgements of a moment
of joy, which prompts feelings of
safety, peace, and happiness.

**EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

And the real beauty
of glimmers is that
everyone experiences
them differently. For
some, it may be a
summer sunset, or a
laughing baby. For
others, it could be
comfort food, a dog, an
old memory.

Once you start
looking for the glimmers, they pop
up more often than you think. Those
trigger moments start to balance out
with glimmer moments, and a bit of
balance is restored. At least for now.

Because being a human isn't the
clinical world we see on TV. It's not
black and white, and it's not easy.

Being a human is about the
streamers from the birthday party
the day before. It's about the cotton
candy, the haunted house, the
nervous twitches. It's the sunset on
an early September night, and the
way the air feels on your face after a
restless sleep. It's about the triggers
and the glimmers and everything in
between.

Oh, to be a human.

What a weird and wonderful thing.

Kwarky



*"Our son hasn't skipped grades, but he has
skipped some developmental stages."*

Big Footing around

THE OTHER day I was out in the
woods with a friend when I saw a
fresh footprint in the mud.

"Look there," I said. "It's another Bigfoot
track."

My friend, being the skeptic he is, im-
mediately noted that it looked more like a
crisp, size 10 print that seemed to be made
by a Reebok product.

"Yes, and that product was clearly worn
by a pre-teen Bigfoot, otherwise known as
a Midfoot" I replied knowingly, while tap-
ping my temple for emphasis.

As our area's only Bigfoot hunter, I felt
fairly confident in pronounc-
ing that.

It turned out I was right
too.

Fifty steps later, we ran
into a suspicious young man,
who was wearing the very
same shoes that belonged to
that young Bigfoot. Oh sure,
he didn't admit to it when
I pressed him on the issue.
Then again, neither would
you if you had just swarmed
an adolescent Bigfoot and
stole his new shoes.

Behaviour like this, by the way, is why
they continue to make themselves scarce in
our area.

This and other important Bigfooty facts
are what separate the good Bigfoot hunters
from the bad ones.

As noted earlier, Bigfoot hunting or
Sasquatching, as we old pros call it, is
rarely practiced around here. Some people
say it's because wearing a tinfoil hat in the
summer and early fall is not all that com-
fortable. But that's a flagrant and inaccurate
stereotype – my hat actually reflects the
sun's rays and keeps me cool.

I have a lot of motives for being a
Sasquatch chaser, not the least of which is
that it is a profession that is far more re-

spected than humour writing.

The main reason, however, is because
I need to justify my early season grouse
hunting to Jenn. You see, over the years,
she has figured out that the odds of me
bringing home an early season Bigfoot are
far greater than bringing home an early sea-
son grouse.

This is primarily because, in the early
season, the ground cover and tree foliage
is still thick, which makes our local grouse
hard to see.

Bigfoot and early season grouse hunt-
ing are similar in other respects too. For
instance, there are people who
have claimed to catch glimpses
of grouse moving quickly
through the foliage – though
honestly I find that hard to
believe. There are also plenty
of unsubstantiated images
and videos of those elusive
wild beings flying through the
September uplands in places
just like ours. Some people,
myself included, have even
heard early season grouse take
off. I swear to God.

I know some grouse hunters would rather
just chase grouse and avoid Bigfoots alto-
gether. It takes all kinds, I guess.

But, if you tell people you are also hunt-
ing for Bigfoots, no one will ever again
approach you and ask you if you got one,
which is the main question most early sea-
son grouse hunters try their best to avoid.

So, if you see me carrying a 20 gauge
over-and-under shotgun and running a
springer spaniel later this month, just be
aware. I am probably hot on the trail of
a Bigfoot and you are probably near my
favourite Bigfoot cover, and there are no
grouse – I repeat, no grouse – there.

There will probably be lots of Bigfoots
though. Good luck seeing them too.

**STEVE GALEA**
Beyond 35

IN OTHER WORDS

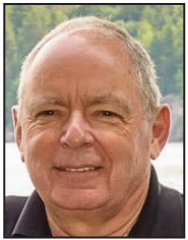
Columns and Letters to the Editor

Why do sunflowers droop?

INOW KNOW why sunflowers droop. It's not because they lack water, or because their seed heads have become heavy.

When you see sunflowers drooping, instead of standing proud and happy, they are hanging their heads in embarrassment. That's because they have become victims of a witless fad.

It's a fad that appears occasionally but usually fades quickly with little attention. But it fell into the international media spotlight recently in Britain and there is concern it will become a major craze.



JIM POLING SR.

From Shaman's Rock

A British sunflower farm reported it has posted No Public Nudity signs at its sunflower fields because people were stripping to take photos of themselves nude among the big, sunny blooms. Some nude photos are posted on social media sites for the enjoyment of followers.

"We are a family area and please keep your clothes on in the sunflowers," visitors to the farm are being told.

The farm began allowing visitors to view the spectacular blooming flowers in late July, then discovered at least six instances of people dropping their clothes for nude photographs.

One visitor reported going through the sunflower patches looking for a spectacular bloom but was shocked to find something even more spectacular – a naked woman posing for a camera.

Another person, apparently visiting the sunflowers with children, reported stumbling onto a woman wearing only a skimpy thong.

"Our son got a right eyeful last night. Should have seen his face!!"

Now some Canadian sunflower farm owners are complaining about visitors wreaking havoc in their fields. People are trampling the sunflower crops as they seek good spots to pose for selfies, clothed or not, among the flowers.

Sunflowers have inspired the urge to go naked ever since Helen Mirren starred in the British film *Calendar Girls*. It was based on the true story of a group of middle-aged women who pose nude for a calendar to raise money for blood cancer research. Sunflowers featured prominently in the photos.

Their nude calendar plan was an instant success and eventually raised millions of dollars for blood cancer research. That happy outcome no doubt boosted the flower's reputation as a symbol of warmth, love and happiness.

Throughout history the flowers have been associated with sun and harvest, creating symbolism of warmth, abundance and prosperity.

Some societies view the sunflower as a symbol of hope and joy, associating it with optimism and perseverance and a representation of life itself. Others see it as a symbol of long life and lasting happiness because most varieties bloom throughout the summer.

The current fad of taking nude selfies in the sunflowers seems to be part of a growing trend toward nudism. Studies of social media data showed a significant increase in nude photo posts during the Coronavirus pandemic.

British Naturism, an organization that supports nudism, reported a more than 100- per-cent increase in new members during the first year of the pandemic.

This year's fashion show walkways have shown the "sheer look" more prominently with bare breasts and skimpy panties visible through see-through clothing. Fashion gurus say risqué sheer looks will gain more prominence in future.

Posing for nude pictures in the sunflowers does involve some risk.

Worms, weevils, spiders, beetles and bees are there to build homes, lay eggs and snack on the sunflowers' tasty treats. Larger critters such as raccoons, mice, rats and bats also are found there.

So if you prefer to be among the sunflowers nude, you are offering a lot more skin to curious critters.

Sunflower pollen and oils also create allergies for some people. These are seldom severe but can cause itchy mouth, watery eyes, eczema and hives, as well as breathing difficulties.

Knowing all that it's probably best to keep your clothes on when visiting sunflower fields. Besides are your followers on Instagram and Facebook really interested in seeing your sagging body parts among sagging sunflower heads?

Some nude posers say their photos make great cards to send out and celebrate birthdays, anniversaries and even Christmas.

Maybe I'm too old-fashioned but I still prefer Christmas cards with smiling Santas, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer or still and quiet manger scenes.



Home of the Huskies

The Huskies played the Stouffville Spirit on Sept. 2 in Minden. The Huskies won 3-2. /TIM YANO Special to the Times



The Huskies have nearly an entirely new roster for the 2023/2024 season, leaving some curious about how the team will perform. Their pre-season games are off to a good start though, winning against the Stouffville Spirit on Sept. 2 with a score of 2-1.

HCPL's Book of the Week



In his small Georgia town, Barclay Elliot is basically a legend. Here basketball is all that matters, and no one has a bigger spotlight than Barclay. Until he decides to use the biggest pep rally in the town's history to come out to his school. And things change. Quickly.

Barclay is faced with hostility he never expected. Suddenly he is at odds with his own team, and he doesn't even have his grandfather to turn to the way he used to. But who is Barclay if he doesn't have basketball?

Recommended for young adults, *Time Out* by Sean Hayes, Todd Milliner and Carlyn Greenwald is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.

Stuck in the present

I'M HAVING a love affair with Annie Ernaux who, at 81, was awarded the 2022 Nobel Prize for Literature. Not just because the idea of recognition at that age in other than a eulogy at one's funeral is sweet, but also because she stoutly defends the need for history that hews as closely as possible to personal reality – a specific body in a specific time and place having specific experiences, shared as nakedly as possible. I am a person who has lived through massive social change – from going to a one-room school on horse-back to being bewildered by cyberspace – and I often feel that from whence I came is of little interest or importance, that wanting to share that reality is nothing other than aged self-indulgence.

Annie thinks differently: she thinks that if we do not acknowledge our history, we are unable to hold hope for the future. That makes sense: it's hard to figure out what to aim

for if you don't know what's at your back. Annie says that current technology imprisons us in the present – which is another way of expressing the scourge of constant surveillance, of being addicted to your devices, of porous or non-existent boundaries between work and life – in sum, of not having time to gather your thoughts. She doesn't think technology is bad, but that it is a societal mutation in process that we don't yet know how it will end. And without history as a foundation on which to stand, we are unable to articulate a preferred end and to act to make that happen. And in this sense of impotence lies the angst and anger that surrounds us.

That's a sad story, particularly if it rings true.

Here's how it rings true for me. I do not understand much of the language my grandchildren speak. It's English, but rooted in an on-line reality about which I know nothing. And even when they explain (and manage not to roll their eyes or sound too condescending), I don't really understand. I don't get what it's all about. Just like they don't get what my life is all about. So we commune – if you can call it that – across a great cultural divide. A larger gap, I think, than the generational divide that the Boomers went on about when they were fledging into the real world. We did understand enough about our parents' reality to be clear about what we wanted to change. We definitely had goals (make love not war; Leary's 'tune in, turn on, drop out'; King's 'I have a dream'), not that we were particularly effective at achieving them.

I worry that where there is no shared culture – when my grandchildren do not know my world, nor me theirs – and with inadequate common language with which to communicate, we cannot create inter-generational community. We cannot join together to do what needs to be done. Perhaps

we cannot even agree on what needs to be done, or parse our weaknesses and strengths enough to divvy up a massive job and beaver away, each in our own way, at getting it done. Greta Thunberg et al complain that we adults are not doing what we need to do, and that they are not powerful enough to stem ecological despair and destruction. And they're right! But how to do better?

Annie Ernaux's contribution is to write her personal history, which she absolutely acknowledges is political (in the sense of reflecting the power dynamics of the experiences she writes about), as 'flat' as she can. Flat means digging deep and bravely for the truth of the experience, being open to discovering what you did not know, writing it without the dilution of niceness, of sentimentality (feelings that are exterior to the experience), of metaphor and comparison. The facts, ma'am, just the facts.

Annie has been a diarist for as long as she can remember. Her journals (if you believe, as I do, that diaries are about what happened, and journals are about what you think/feel about what happened, this is the right word, and in any case, the French word for diaries) are her raw materials. She mines them to find out who she is, the 'persistence of the person' through changing times. She uses the instrument of memory, aided by her journals as true, in-the-moment records of reality, to claim time. To escape presentism. To see from whence she came so as to set goals for where she's going. She believes, as do I, that you need a memory of the past to engage with the present and have hope for the future.

Recollection, if truthfully rendered, is not the meanderings of an irrelevant person, but the foundation on which we can build community to save our world. Check out Annie Ernaux on YouTube to delve further.

The spirit of Annie Ernaux will be with Fay as she presents at Bookapalooza, Sept. 16, 10:30 a.m., Minden Curling Club.



FALL FUNDRAISER

Saturday, September 17th 7:00 pm

Lakeside Church
Park Street, Haliburton

FEATURING:



"Rhythm and Grace"
The Duketow Family
Free admission.

An offering will be taken with all proceeds going to the Pregnancy Care & Family Support Centre. Receipts will be mailed.

For more information please call
705-457-4673



A big day at Molly's

Molly McInerney and Shirley Johannessen take a break from their busy day to share the news of their new debit machine. The unit was previously on dial-up, and has now been upgraded to high speed, offering a smoother experience for staff and customers alike at Molly's Bistro Bakery. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff



www.hikehaliburton.com

SEPTEMBER 21-24, 2023

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN



Bookapalooza is back

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

Calling all readers and writers! The literature event of the year in Haliburton County is just around the corner.

The second annual Bookapalooza will be held on Sept. 15 and 16 at the Minden Curling Club, and this year, it promises to be the biggest year yet. "It's going to be fabulous," said Marie Gage, one of the organizers of the event, "it will be much bigger than last year."

The event is designed to offer a full weekend of networking, learning, and celebrating literature in the Haliburton Highlands. "This is an arts community," said Gage, "and often, authors work in the background. We want to celebrate reading and writing as a form of the arts. It's all a part of the vibrant arts community in which we live."

Kicking off the event is what the organizers are calling the "Big Book Club" at the Curling Club, in which author Lawrence Hill will be interviewed by the Haliburton County Public Library's CEO, Chris Stephenson. Hill is an internationally acclaimed bestselling author, and has written eleven books of fiction and non-fiction including the well-known *Book of Negroes*, which has recently been made into a mini-series on television.

The Big Book Club will allow participants to ask Hill questions about the art of writing, as well as a meet and greet session before and after the talk for book signings.

The event kickstarts a full weekend lineup of all things reading and writ-



Award-winning author Lawrence Hill will be kicking off the second annual Bookapalooza at the Minden Curling Club on Sept. 15 with a Big Book Club Q and A session. /Photo submitted

ing, with something for all ages along the way. "The Haliburton Lions Club will be offering their Book Nook, where all children attending will walk away with a free book," said Gage. There will be readings offered all through the day, to foster the love of reading and writing starting from a young age.

"The feature event for kids will be the storybook walk," shared Gage, which will be featuring Heather O'Connor, an award-winning children's author and freelance writer. She will be doing a guided reading of her book *Runs With the Stars*, or *Wijibiamatoon Anangoo-*

nan in Ojibwe, which tells the story of the Ojibwe Horses that used to roam the forests of northwestern Ontario.

For older readers, the event is hosting over 50 exhibitors, with five presentations throughout the day on Saturday. Some of the presentations will include topics such as publishing and purchasing, the art of transforming experiences into memoirs, the Indigenous voice in Canadian fiction, the power of books to define culture, and the "Sounds of Halls Island", which is a musical performance by singer/songwriter Sanda Bouza. "You can pop into any of these presentations

throughout the day," said Gage. "You may want to look ahead and see which presentations are most interesting to you."

Gage noted that one of the main priorities for the day is keeping the event accessible to everyone, which means that admission is free for all to attend, but donations are welcome so that the organizers can start planning future events.

For a full lineup of events, as well as additional information on Bookapalooza, visit the Arts Council website at www.haliburtonarts.on.ca/bookapalooza.



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KINMOUNT FAIR FUN

Fair game

The Scrambler brought lots of smiles and laughs to the 151st Kinmount Fair. /TIM YANO Special to the Times



Cameron Ferguson of the Haliburton Highlanders Pipes and Drums marches in the 151st Kinmount Fair Parade on Saturday, Sept. 2.



A driver keeps both hands on the wheel while riding a bumper car at the Kinmount Fair on Saturday, Sept. 2.



Goats, sheep, cows, horses, and elk were some of the attractions of the Kinmount Fair last weekend.

Community events sponsored by

Lisa Mercer

Don't keep me or your event a secret!

lisa@lisamercer.ca
cell: 705.457.0364

Broker

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Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly
When: Monday mornings 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion Branch 129, upper level
Admission: Yearly membership of \$59
A non-profit/commercial network of weight-loss support groups, offers programs for healthy living and weight management.

Contract Bridge
When: Every Tuesday, 9 a.m. to noon
Where: Minden United Church basement, 21 Newcastle Street
Our weekly contract bridge has resumed and it's hoped that many of those who played before Covid will come back, along with new members. All levels of skill welcomed.

Being Assertive: A Free H.O.P.E. Course
When: Sept. 12, 19, 10 to 11:30 a.m.
Where: SIRCH Bistro, 49 Maple Ave., Haliburton (Event description)(Contact info)
Do you want to be more assertive? This group will describe various communication styles and provide strategies on how to become more assertive in your communication. Different communication styles will be presented including how to say "no" when you need to. Email hopelc@cmhahkpr.ca to sign up or to learn more.

Facilitation Skills- A free H.O.P.E. Course
When: September 8, 15, 22, 29 10 a.m. to noon
Where: SIRCH Bistro, 49 Maple Ave., Haliburton
This course will provide the basics of facilitating groups and provide experience with public speaking. Learn about various teaching and learning styles, explore the purpose of group

learning, and develop the skills to lead a productive group. Email hopelc@cmhahkpr.ca to sign up or to learn more.

Too Much Doubt: A Haliburton Mystery
When: Sept. 9, 10, 2:30 p.m.
Where: On the Grounds of the Haliburton Highlands Museum
Join us at the Haliburton Highlands Museum for the showing of Too Much Doubt, a play by Kate Butler and Michael Clipperton. Admission is \$20. Please bring your own seats (limited seating available in the case of inclement weather). Tickets are available at the museum, 705-457-2760.

Minden Legion Branch 636
Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m. Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Every other Friday Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m. Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m. Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636 for more info.

Haliburton COUNTY FOLK SOCIETY

Julian Taylor

Opening act: Cassidy Taylor

"... folk and soul, lyrically brilliant"

Saturday September 9, 2023 7:30 pm

Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion

Tickets \$40, \$35 for HCFS members, youth and children 18 & under free (Must order free tickets online)

Tickets online: www.haliburtonfolk.com

A project of the Haliburton County Community Cooperative Thanks to Canadian Heritage for their support

KINMOUNT FAIR FUN



Prize winners walk through the middle of the fair during the parade. /TIM YANO Special to the *Times*



A fairgoer tries his hand at a basketball game.



A Shriner dances to *Shut up and Dance* at the front of their train during the parade.

SHIFTING LENS

Ontario Society of Artists | Eastern Ontario

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Opening reception Saturday, September 9, 1-3 pm



Tuesday - Saturday | 10 am - 4 pm | Admission by donation
176 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden | culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca | 705-286-3763



THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills proposes to consider a by-law to stop up, close, and convey the parcels of land more particularly described as follows:

1. File No. PLSRA2022068: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Twelve Mile Lake, lying in front of 1017 Minstrel Court within Part Lot 13, Concession 11 in the geographic Township of Minden.
2. File No. PLSRA2022079: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Horseshoe Lake, lying in front of 1059 Nawautin Lane within Part Lot 10, Concession 7, in the geographic Township of Minden.
3. File No. PLSRA2022091: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Gull Lake, lying in front of 1118 Golden Road Lane within Part Lot 14, Concession 11, in the geographic Township of Lutterworth.
4. File No. PLSRA2023011: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Kashagawigamog Lake, lying in front of 1067 Halikash Lane within Part Lot 23, Concession 4, in the geographic Township of Minden.

The Council meeting to consider a by-law to stop up, close and convey the parcels listed above will be scheduled for **September 28th, 2023**.

The above noted applications are available for inspection in the Building and Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned or by visiting www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned at their earliest convenience. If deemed advisable, By-laws giving effect to the proposed closure and conveyance will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills.

Amanda Dougherty, B.A. (Hons)
Manager of Planning
705-286-1260 Ext. 506
adougherty@mindenhills.ca

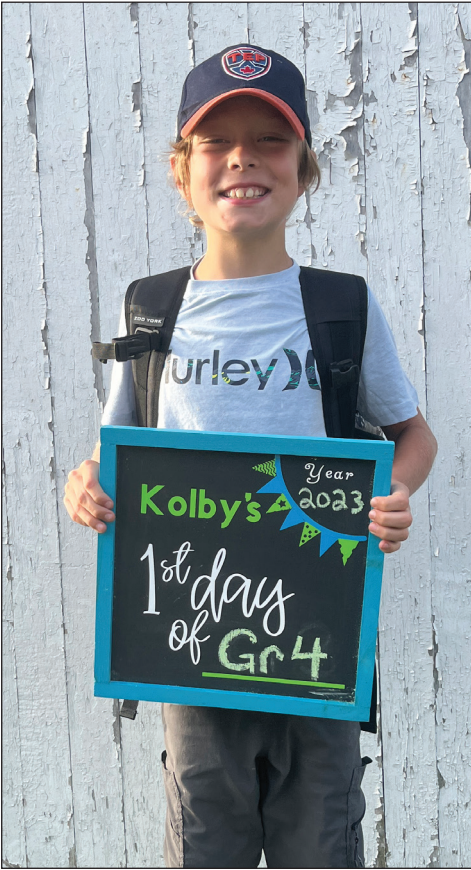
BACK-TO-SCHOOL



Bentley Warburton-Smith smiles on his first day going to Grade 1. /Submitted



Eden Folco smiles ear to ear on her first day of Grade 1 at Archie Stouffer. / Submitted



Kolby Hogg is excited about starting Grade 4 at Archie Stouffer. /Photo submitted



Maddy Walker is ready to take on the tenth grade in Haliburton. /Photo submitted

Sudoku brought to you by



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SUDOKU

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Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 12

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

The Speaker Series is back

with 4,289 Easy Steps to Better Living

The 2023/24 season returns on Sept. 13 with a presentation by Stephan Lukacic called *Better Living in 4,289 Easy Steps* – a look at the many paths toward sustainable living and self-reliance. Our guide will be a guy who's in the process of figuring it all out. Topics include diet as medicine, developing sustainable habits via trial and error, and removing oneself from the toxic stew of the modern world one step at a time.

The tale of *Six String Nation* – a story of a guitar called Voyageur made of 64 different pieces of material - wood, bone, metal, stone and others – each piece has a story to tell about Canada. This multimedia presentation on Oct. 11 by Jowi Taylor, will include several local guitarists playing the Voyageur.

On November 8, Wil Andrea will share her experiences working with victims of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Learn how the Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation supports survivors' demands to rid the world of sexual violence as a weapon of war and has consequences for individual perpetrators and the states that support them.

Johnny Waite and Andrea Hagarty take the stage on Dec. 13 with their presentation called *Sailing Back in Time ... An Adventure on Remote Philippine Islands*. Their stories, photos, and videos of a trip on a traditional 74' Paraw wooden sailboat may have you wanting to strike out on your own adventure.

Now in its eighth year, the monthly speaker series have featured a variety of topics – travel, adventure, entertainment, politics, art, social and environmental is-

sues - presented by interesting, knowledgeable, engaging speakers. Many have been from our community including Carol Moffat, Barry Devolin, Peter Bowers, Mary Anne Barkhouse, John and Thea Patterson and Mike Jaycock, to name a few. Speakers from "away" have included such notables such as Ted Barris, James Raffan, Kevin Callan, Kurt Browning, Grit Laskin and Robert Fisher.

Originally an initiative of Yours Outdoors, Telling Our Stories will now continue under the auspices of the Haliburton County Community Cooperative. "We are very pleased to be able to present this speaker series" noted Jim Blake, President of the Haliburton County Community Cooperative. "It supports our work to contribute to the social, cultural, environmental and economic well-being of Haliburton Highlands and its citizens."

The series happens on the second Wednesday of each month from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Haliburton Highlands Outdoor Association Fish Hatchery. Admission is \$15/person payable at the door. A portion of the ticket sales goes to a charity or local non-profit organization.

The speaker series crew – Sean Pennylegion, Jack Brezina, Tammy Rea, Eric Lilius and Barrie Martin – is searching out more presentations for the winter and spring. If you would like to receive updates or have a story you would like to tell, please email barrieinthehighlands@gmail.com or call 705-457-7557.

Submitted

Newspaper database project launched

by VIVIAN COLLINGS
Times Staff

Soon there will be a way for everyone to access existing written history of Haliburton County.

The Haliburton County Newspaper Digitization Project committee has formed to take on digitizing boxes and boxes of newspaper publications as far back as 1860.

The demanding job will be completed in steps, beginning this fall.

"It's ideal for people doing genealogy, it's ideal for people doing personal history searches or if someone's researching a certain project or organization," said Ted Brandon, project coordinator. "And it's just so important to preserve. All these papers live in boxes. If there were ever a fire, all that history would be gone."

Just last week, he started cataloging one collection of publications.

"Initially, I've been identifying where all the various collections are held. This is the first day I've been opening boxes and listing the publications, how many pages they are, and making a note of the condition," Brandon said, surrounded

by stacks of yellowed newspapers last Tuesday at the Minden library.

Although a lengthy process, taking inventory will help the committee source funding to complete the digitization.

The committee is made up of members from U-Links, Trent University, local museums, the Haliburton County Public Library, and other historical organizations, with Barb Bolin as chair.

"There have been people in the community who have been talking about this project for about a year. A couple of them set out to find funding to do this first phase - from HCDC, the Rotary club, Canoe FM, and some private donors," he said.

The committee is hoping the first phase will be completed by the end of 2023.

Phase two will be to acquire funding, determine where the archive will "live" online, and then carry out the digitizing of all papers.

"We also have to determine if this will be an in-house project, if we will buy the equipment ourselves, or if we're going to subcontract it out," Brandon said. "I've talked to some communities that have already done this, and it's about 50/50. Half of them buy the equipment and do it themselves."

He said if the equipment is purchased, it can also be used to

document things like tax records, immigration records, death rolls, and property rolls.

Brandon said offering the county's newspaper archive online will benefit both the community and individuals in it.

"Even on the first day of going through these, I found papers that my father was in, one where I was on the front page - it just gives you the ability to search the county's history and even your own family's. It's amazing going through them and see other people you know, too," he said.

The archive will live on a searchable online database, instead of in basements or storage rooms.

He said unfortunately, collections have gone up in flames in the past, or papers were simply thrown away.

"There's going to be lots of gaps in the early years, but once we get through the larger collections, we're reaching out to the community to see if anyone has personal collections," Brandon said.

The goal is for the Haliburton County Newspaper Digitization Project to be a "living" project after the initial push, adding all publications from local papers each year.

If you have a collection of pre-1980s papers, Brandon can be contacted: haliburtondigital@gmail.com.




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We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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In Loving Memory
Reta Eileen Cruikshanks

It is with great sadness that the family of Reta Eileen Cruikshanks (nee Gibbs) shares her passing on July 31, 2023 in her 94th year at her home in Calgary, Alberta.

Eileen was born and raised in Minden Township. She loved to travel, garden and was an avid quilter who enjoyed sharing her creations with many. Even though she and her husband, Laverne, moved across Canada with the Royal Canadian Air Force, they always found their way back to their cottage at Maple Lake, Ontario.

Eileen is predeceased by her parents, Joseph and Reta Gibbs and by her husband, Laverne and daughter Janet.

Dear mother of Karren and Bonnie (Jeff). She is survived by her cherished sister Alice, brothers; Reg and Ray, and sister-in-law, Eileen. Predeceased by; brothers; Don and Lorne, brother-in-law Bill and sisters-in-law; Lorraine, Terry and Sharon. Loving grandmother to Jeffrey, Bailey and Justin (Nicole) and great-grandmother to Joshua, Lucas, Jake and Ellie.

She will be sadly missed and lovingly remembered by many family members and friends.

A graveside service will be held at St. Stephen's Anglican Church Cemetery, 2072 Buckslide Rd., Algonquin Highlands on Saturday, October 14, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

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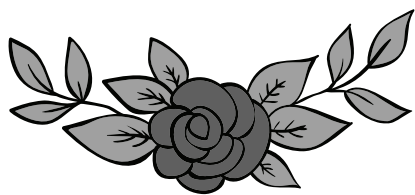
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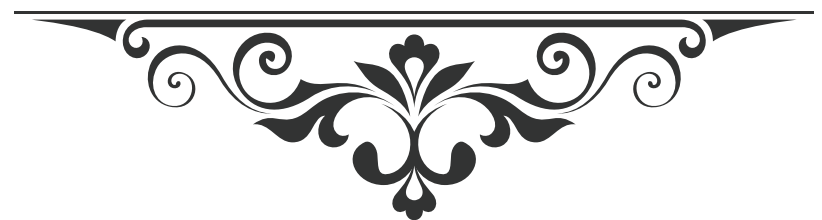
**Robert "Bob" McIvor**

(Resident of Haliburton, Ontario)

Peacefully at Ajax Hospital on Thursday afternoon, August 31, 2023 in his 87th year. Beloved husband of Ann McIvor (nee Rubidge). Loving father of Jay, Laurel (Tyler), Gayle and Lisa (Mark). Fondly remembered by his grandchildren Jessahra, Dagon, Sydney, Indigo, Freya, Gwen, Brianna, Callum and by his great grandchildren Clara, Avery and Calvin. Dear brother of Sandra. Robert worked as a math teacher in the Hamilton Board for many years. He enjoyed reading, playing cards and most of all, spending time with his family at the cottage.

A Remembrance Gathering

Friends and family are invited to join the family at **THE COMMUNITY ROOM** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario on Saturday afternoon, September 9, 2023 from 1-3 p.m. A time of sharing will take place at 2 p.m. As an expression of sympathy, donations to Haliburton County Library would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

www.communityfuneralhomes.com**Home Opener****Saturday, Sept. 9**
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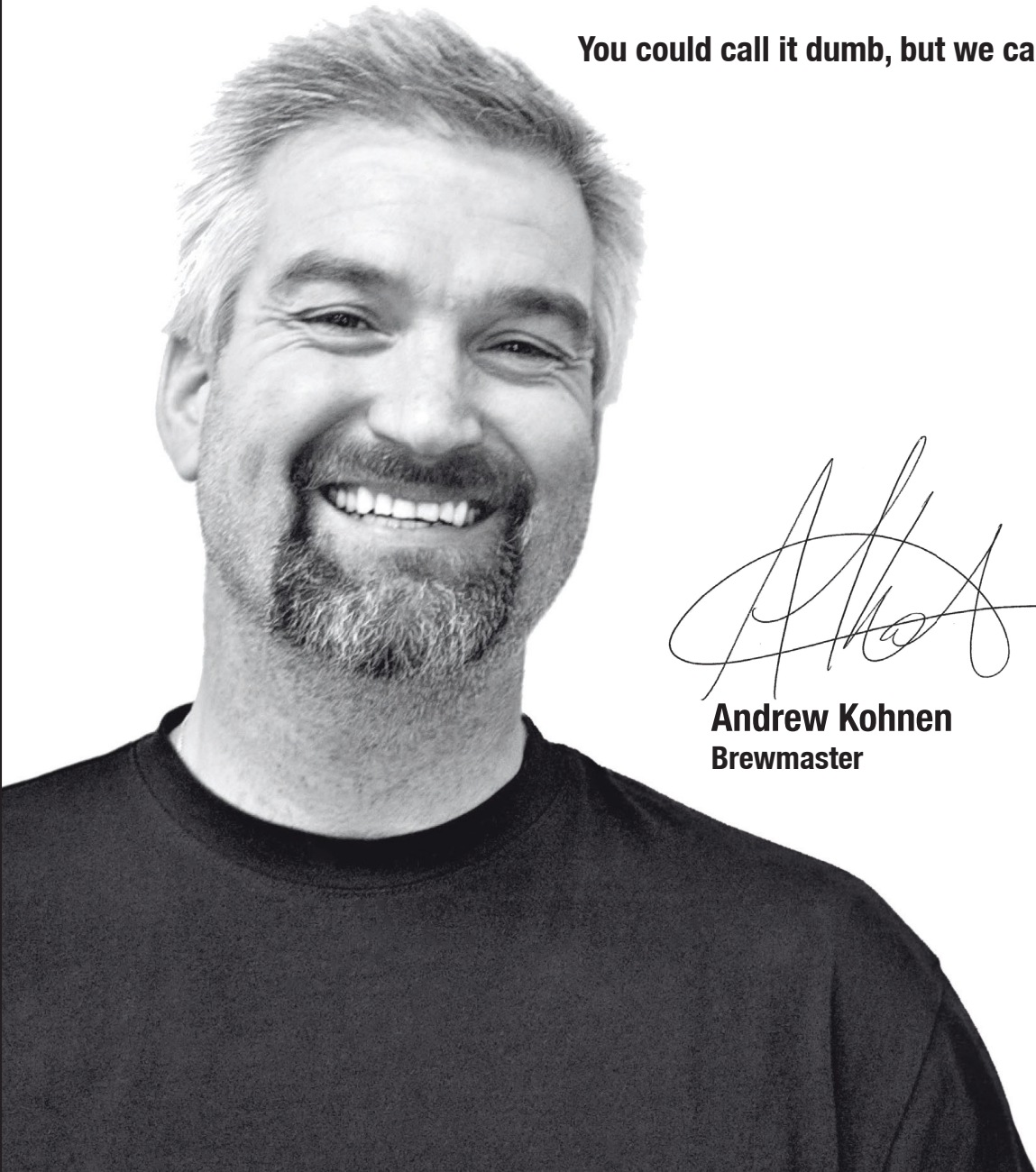


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County takes initiative to find solution Water level woes persist

After "circling around" the problem of fluctuating water levels in Haliburton County Lakes for more than a decade, County Council is planning to take steps of its own toward the only possible solution.

On behalf of the county, Dysart Reeve Murray Fearrey and Stanhope Reeve Harry Davis will be entering into discussions with the federal government in hopes of establishing a firm planning process for creating more reservoir capacity for the Trent Severn Waterway.

County Council, municipal councils, cottage associations and individual residents have been complaining about the poor management of Haliburton County lakes for at least 10 years. These complaints, though, have fallen on deaf ears with the federal government and authorities with the waterway.

Waterway's only concern is maintaining navigation

"Parks Canada or the Trent-Severn Waterway have only one mandate: keeping (the waterway) navigable all year," said Davis during last week's County Council meeting. "And they do it at our expense. They don't care if we have any water or not."

Davis is also the Chairman of the Haliburton Highlands Water Management Advisory Committee, which was set up to address concerns of local residents. His committee recently released its report on the 1987 operations of the waterway, which highlighted the need for increased reservoir capacity. "It is our belief that if capacity to store an additional 180,000 acre feet (of water) were to be provided, most problems of the residents of the Reservoir Lakes Area would be solved," the report concluded.

The fluctuating water levels in this county affect about 90 per cent of the residents, whether or not they live on a lake. Warden Bob McCausland said it

used to be that roads were the cause of most complaints from residents. Now it is the water levels, which of course, are not controlled by the municipi-

palities or the county.

For the second summer in a row, area lake levels have plummeted to new lows. When the lake levels sink, so do the water levels

in area wells. Hundreds of area residents with dug wells are counting the days until Thanksgiving, when the waterway shuts down for the winter and the wells

begin to fill again.

As far as the federal government and waterway officials are concerned, though, there are no problems. The existing reservoir storage is sufficient to meet the primary

(more on page 6)

Lougheeds' dedication recognized



Rotary District 701 Governor Tom DeGeer, left, presents Val and Steve Lougheed with their commemorative plaque Thursday. Assisting with the presentation was Minden Rotary Club president Peter Bennett.

Steve and Valerie Lougheed have been named Rotary Club of Minden, Citizens of the Year. The presentation of the award was made Thursday night at a special meeting of the local service club.

In addition to a plaque marking the special honour, President of the Rotary Club, Peter Bennett, announced that a donation in the names of the Lougheeds would be made by the Rotary Club to the Five Counties Children Centre in Peterborough.

The meeting was told that the Lougheeds had been chosen for the honour because of their work over the past four years in organizing the Minden Sled Dog Derby. The couple was described as the driving force behind this annual event, which brings thousands of spectators to Minden's Main Street to take in the excitement of the race.

It was noted that the derby has grown over the years, a result of the careful guidance and drive of the two area residents.

(more on page 15)

Earl Kent retires after 29 years

After 29 years as an employee of the Anson, Hindon and Minden townships Roads Department, 10 of which were spent as Superintendent, Earl Kent is retiring at the end of October. More than 100 friends and co-workers attended a special retire-

ment party held in his honour at the community centre on Saturday.

When Kent started work with the roads crew on October 18, 1959, things were quite different than today. "The roads are highways now, compared to what they were then," he

said. And the Roads Department equipment consisted of two trucks, an old tractor and a loader.

Winter is always a busy time for the road crew, but Kent says milder weather and better equipment have combined to make the job a little easier over the

years. He remembers during his first years on the job starting out at 7 a.m. on a Sunday morning to plow the roads and working straight through until 6 p.m. on Monday. This was not the normal practice, but it did happen occasionally when one of

the trucks was broken down during a storm.

In Kent's mind, there is no question that the winters are growing milder. During his first year on the job, he says there was so much snow in

(more on page 7)

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